

regiments, shall respectively appoint their own staff; and all commissioned officers may continue in office during good behaviour; and staff officers during the same time, subject to be removed by the superior officers from whom they respectively derive their appointment.

#### ARTICLE 6.

##### *Judicial Department*

§ 1. The judicial power of this state shall be vested in one supreme court, in circuit courts, in county courts, and in justices of the peace. The general assembly may also vest such jurisdiction as may be deemed necessary in corporation courts, and, when they deem it expedient, may establish courts of chancery.

2. The supreme court shall be composed of three judges, one of whom shall be styled chief justice, any two of whom shall constitute a quorum, and the concurrence of two of said judges shall, in every case, be necessary to a decision. The supreme court, except in cases otherwise directed by this constitution, shall have appellate jurisdiction only, which shall be co-extensive with the state, under such restrictions and regulations as may, from time to time, be prescribed by law. It shall have a general superintending control over all inferior and other courts of law and equity. It shall have power to issue writs of error and supersedeas, certiorari, and habeas corpus, mandamus, and quo warranto, and other remedial writs, and to hear and determine the same. Said judges shall be conservators of the peace throughout the state, and shall severally have power to issue any of the aforesaid writs.

3. The circuit courts shall have original jurisdiction over all criminal cases, which shall not be otherwise provided for by law; and exclusive original jurisdiction of all crimes amounting to felony at common law; and original jurisdiction of all civil cases which shall not be cognisable before justices of the peace, until otherwise directed by the general assembly; and original jurisdiction in all matters of contracts, where the sum in controversy is over one hundred dollars. It shall hold its terms in such place in each county as may be by law directed.

4. The state shall be divided into convenient circuits, each to consist of not less than five, nor more than seven counties, contiguous to each other, for each of which a judge shall be elected; who, during his continuance in office, shall reside and be a conservator of the peace within the circuit for which he shall have been elected.

5. The circuit courts shall exercise a superintending control over the county courts, and over justices of the peace, in each county in their respective circuits, and shall have power to issue all the necessary writs to carry into effect their general and specific powers.

6. Until the general assembly shall deem it expedient to establish courts of chancery, the circuit court shall have jurisdiction in matters of equity, subject to appeal to the supreme court, in such manner as may be prescribed by law.

7. The general assembly shall, by joint vote of both houses, elect the judges of the supreme and circuit courts, a majority of the whole number in joint vote being necessary to a choice. The judges of the supreme court shall be at least thirty years of age. They shall hold their offices during the term of eight years from the date of their commissions. Im-